

REMARKS

This is a response to the final Office action that was issued on June 28, 2006 and the Advisory action that was issued on September 15, 2006 for the above-identified patent application. Prior to entry of this response, claims 1-18, 20-47, and 49-86 were pending, with claims 18, 23, 28-34, 59, and 65-71 withdrawn from consideration and the remaining claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over either of GB 2,283,235 to Collins (“Collins”) or U.S. Patent No. 6,572,837 to Holland et al. (“Holland et al.”). Applicant has studied the cited references in view of the pending claims and in view of the reasons expressed by the Examiner in the Office action. Applicant understands that the Section 102(b) rejections from the third Office action have been withdrawn in view of Applicant’s prior amendments to more clearly recite an odorant that has a distinct odor from the carbon-containing feedstock in the feed stream for the hydrogen-producing fuel processor. From the fourth Office action, Applicant also understands that the Examiner has maintained the Section 103 rejections because the recited odorant-containing feed stream is not positively recited. From the Advisory action, Applicant understands that the Examiner’s position is that Applicant should positively recite a feedstock supply from which a feed stream containing a carbon-containing feedstock, water, and the recited odorant is provided.

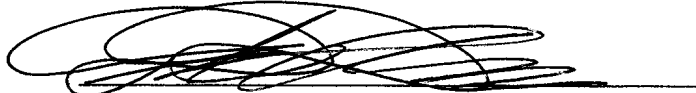
Applicant thanks the Examiner for her detailed comments in the fourth Office action and in a telephone interview with Applicant's undersigned attorney on October 5, 2006. Applicant especially thanks the Examiner for taking the time to suggest the above amendments to the claims to patentably distinguish the cited references. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's refusal to enter Applicant's proposed amendments that were submitted previously in responses to the final Office action, as Applicant submits that those claims addressed the Examiner's concerns by positively reciting a feed stream containing the carbon-containing feedstock, water, and odorant. Despite this traversal, claims 1, 35, and 81 are amended in the above amendments to comply with the Examiner's requirement that the feedstock supply be positively recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicant requests entry of the above amendments and reconsideration of the Section 103 rejections issued in the Office action. Applicant hereby incorporates by reference the reasons expressed in Applicant's initial response to the final Office action, in which reasons why the independent claims patentably distinguish the cited references were expressed. Applicant submits that these reasons are similarly applicable to the above amended claims, which also positively recite a feedstock supply for the feed stream.

With the entry of the above amendments, and for the reasons discussed herein, Applicant submits that all of the issues raised in the Office action and the Advisory action have been addressed and overcome. If there are any remaining issues, or if the Examiner has any questions, Applicant expressly requests a

telephone interview with the Examiner so that any such questions or remaining issues may be discussed and hopefully resolved without requiring a further Office action and response.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David S. D'Ascenzo', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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